Application No.: 10/644,436 Docket No.: 65851-0013

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of lacing a generally toroidal coil comprising the steps of:

supporting said coil on an angularly rotating support;

providing a needle having an open eye, said needle having an axis and being rotatable about its axis and being radially and axially movable relative to said ~~toroidal~~ coil to enter and leave a region defined inside a perimeter of said coil;

providing a feeder source for providing a lacing cord;

wrapping ~~the~~ said lacing cord all around the needle's eye ~~around the needle~~ while the needle is moving radially relative to ~~the toroidal~~ said coil, before the needle leaves the region defined inside the perimeter of said coil.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, further including the steps of:

positioning said feeder relative to said needle so that a feeder axis is generally parallel with the needle axis;

rotating said feeder about the axis of said needle with an average angular speed that is twice an average angular speed of rotation of ~~the~~ said needle about its axis;

depositing ~~the~~ said cord into engagement with the needle's eye, near the end of a radial stroke of ~~the~~ said needle towards the center of ~~the toroidal~~ said coil.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the angular speed of ~~the~~ said feeder and said angular speed of rotation of ~~the~~ said needle about its axis are constant.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ said wrapping of ~~the~~ said cord onto ~~the~~ said needle is carried out during a feeder rotation by 360° and a needle rotation by 180°.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, further including the steps of:
performing a tying knot;
hooking ~~the~~ said cord at a cycle end;
automatically positioning ~~the~~ said cord end into ~~the~~ said needle's eye and cutting ~~the~~ said cord.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 9, wherein said coil is a stator coil in a brushless electric motor.

15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for lacing a generally toroidal coil, comprising:
a support for said coil, wherein said support is capable of angularly rotating the coil;
a needle having an open eye, said needle having an axis and being rotatable about its axis and being radially and axially movable relative to said toroidal coil to enter and leave the region defined inside a perimeter of said coil;
a feeder source for providing a source of lacing cord; and
an eccentric control assembly for displacing said feeder about the axis of said needle at a speed twice a rotation speed of the needle;
whereby said lacing cord is wrapped all around the needle's eye of said needle.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said eccentric control assembly includes two plates slidable in vertical and horizontal direction, respectively.

17. (New) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said lacing further includes a step of changing said coil direction and a support of said supporting step is rotated both clockwise and counterclockwise during the same lacing work-cycle, to perform two or more lacing cycles on a same coil portion.